(c) The Government is implementing several programmes in the sphere of health, nutrition, access to water, sanitation and development of infrastructure. Under "Bharat Nirman" a time-bound business plan for action in rural infrastructure over the four year period (2005—2009), action is proposd in the areas of irrigation, rural roads, rural water supply, rural housing, rural electrification and rural telecommunication connectivity. The Mid-day Meal Schme has been launched to increase attendance and improve the children's nutritional status. A National Rural Health Mission has been launched to address the gaps in provision of effective health care to rural population with special focus on 18 States, which have weak public health indicators and/or weak infrastructure. The Backward Regions Grant Fund has been launched for the development of backward areas. This programme has two components, namely, (i) Districts component covering 250 districts, and (ii) Specail Plans for Bihar and KBK districts of Orissa.

**Report of NSSO**

†354. DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI:
SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn towards the report of National Sample Survey Organisation (NSSO) wherein it was stated that every third person in the country survives on just Rs. Twelve per day or even on lesser than this amount;

(b) if so, the facts thereof; and

(c) the names of the States in the country having forty per cent or more such people under the category mentioned in the said report?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI M.V. RAJASEKHARAN): (a) and (b) Based on the pecentage of rural and urban population below specified levels of monthly per capita consumption expenditure (MPCE) given in the Report No. 508(61/1.0/1), "Level and Pattern of Consumer Expenditure 2004-2005", of NSS 61st Round (July 2004—June 2005) brought out by the National Sample Survey Organization (NSSO), Ministry of Statistics and Programme

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

Implementation, Government of India, the per capita consumption expenditure of 29.13 per cent of the rural population and 7.13 per cent of the urban population in the country is less than Rs. 12.00 per day.

(c) According to the above report of the NSSO, the rural areas of Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh and Orissa have forty per cent of more people with per capita consumption expenditure less than Rs. 12 per day. In the urban areas, no State has forty per cent of more people with per capita consumption expenditure less than Rs. 12 per day.

**Policy papers on infrastructure sector**

355. SHRI BALAVANT *ALIAS* BALAPTE: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have asked Planning Commission to prepare policy papers on required regulatory framework for infrastructure sector;

(b) the status of the work done by Planning Commission in this regard;

(c) the details of the recommendations that are coming to fore from this policy paper;

(d) in what manner Government are going to ensure the enforcement of regulatory laws at local level;

(e) whether this paper would be released to get suggestions from public; and

(f) if so, by when it is likely to be done?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI M.V. RAJASEKHARAN): (a) Yes, Sir. The National Common Minimum Programme States, *inter alia*, that 'all regulatory institutions will be strengthened to ensure that competition is free & fair. These institutions will be run professionablly';

(b) a consultation paper on 'Approach to Regulation of Infrastructure-Issues and Options' has since been pepared and a copy of the paper has been put on the websites of the Planning Commission: www.planning commission.gov.in and the Committee on Infrastructure: